





Section Four: 1979 to 1989

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<p data-bbox="174 357 414 446">Mrs. Monica Ryan (deceased) 1979 to 1980</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Dental Officer • One of the first women to graduate from Newcastle University Dental School • A member of S.I. Newcastle upon Tyne member for nearly 40 years • In June 1978, visited the United Nations Headquarters in Luxembourg, as a Soroptimist representative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Annual Club Dinner was held at the Old Assembly Rooms where Roy Storer, Dean of the Sutherland Dental School, was the guest speaker. • Annual outing was to Manderston House near Berwick, where Lord and Lady Palmer hosted a sherry reception prior to Lunch • The result of the year's fund raising was the purchase of bicycles for the Deaf School on the Great North Road. • Supported Marie Curie Hospice in Newcastle's West End by organising the trolley service round the rooms and acting as hostesses to welcome families and visitors. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federation President: Dr Jean M. Sheach MD, DMRD • Miss M Brown: S.I. Northern England Regional President • Dottie Kissinger was International President • By the end of 1979, Soroptimist International had 61,732 members in 2,108 countries. • Numerous clubs in the UK raised funds to help children around the world including the Caribbean and Fiji Projects. • PEACESAT Project was implemented: Soroptimists of the SW Pacific Federation gathered at PEACESAT stations in New Zealand, Fiji, Tonga, Australia, Western Samoa and the USA to exchange news and views. Later there were links established with the Europe and GBI Federations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PM Margaret Thatcher: May 1st • June 7th: First European Parliament election • 1979: Dame Josephine Barnes becomes the first woman president of the BMA • The founder President of the first Soroptimist Club, Violet Richardson Ward (1888 – 1979) died. • UN International Year of the Child 1980



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<p>Miss Dorothy Ross (deceased) 1980 to 1981</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Principal Lecturer in Behavioral Sciences. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dorothy said: 'Sessions were spent on the Children's Cancer Ward at Newcastle General Hospital with Mrs Lily Bailey, Teacher in charge. It was both a privilege and inspiration to meet with children and parents in such a happy, encouraging atmosphere. Our special project for the year was raising money for this ward.' The very jolly 'get-together' for coffee at 1, Belmont - after evensong at St. Aiden's, the one night with seats on the floor only! 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Federation President: DR. Pricilla E. Turnbull MRCGP Federation Conference in Jersey SI Cockermouth established with the first meeting in October 1980. Mrs. H Shaw: S.I. Northern England Regional President Sixtieth Anniversary of Soroptimism International Conference in Barbados. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PM Margaret Thatcher August 1980: Tyne and Wear Metro opens January: 1981 UN International Year of the Disabled (IYD)



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<p>Mrs. Nina Hannaford (deceased) 1981 to 1982</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appeal Organiser (later Conservative Central Office Agent and City Councillor, 1978 to 1987 and 1992 to 1996) • A member of S.I. Newcastle upon Tyne for 47 years. • President of the Northern England Divisional Union 1984 - 1985 • Honorary member of SI Newcastle upon Tyne (1995) • Gifted needlewoman: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £800 cheque was presented to the charity, 'Action Research for the Crippled Child'. • £200 + was raised by the club for the Newcastle Council for the Disabled and the Blind. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federation President: Mrs. Viola Hewitt BA, LLCM, LTCL, LGSM • Annual Conference 1981 in Ingliston (Edinburgh) • SI Cockermouth celebrated first Charter Lunch. • Mrs. S King: S.I. Northern England Regional President 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PM Margaret Thatcher • April 4th: Susan Brown, a 23-year-old Biology student at Oxford University, becomes the first female cox in a winning Boat Race crew. • September – Greenham Common Women's Peace Camp set up. • The C of E General Synod votes to admit women to holy orders • Falkland War begins April 1982 and ends in June of the same year.



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<p>Mrs Nancy Avery (moved to London 1986) 1982 to 1983</p> 	<p>A member of S.I. Newcastle upon Tyne for over fifteen years.</p> <p>Local Government: Rating Officer (the first women to achieve that position).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> While President in Newcastle, Nancy (and the club), worked to raise money for a guide dog for her favourite charity "Guide Dogs for the Blind."  <p style="font-size: small;">Presented to Optimists Club of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, in gratitude from The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Federation President: Miss Thelma M de Leeuw GRSM, LRAM, ARCM SIGBI Conference in Bournemouth Miss E Gowland: S.I. Northern England Regional President 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PM Margaret Thatcher Women's peace protest at RAF Greenham Common The Hyde Park and Regent's Park bombings occurred on 20 July 1982 in London. Members of the Provisional Irish Republican Army (IRA) detonated two bombs during British military ceremonies in Hyde Park and Regent's Park, both in central London. September 21st: the first International Day of Peace is proclaimed by the (United Nations). December 12th – Women's peace protest at RAF Greenham Common: 30,000 women hold hands and form a human chain around the 14.5 km (9 mi) perimeter fence February 12th: in Lahore, 100 women protest against 'Law of Evidence'. They were tear gassed, baton charged and imprisoned. The law was repealed.

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<p>Miss Florence M. Kirkby MBE (died January 2019) 1983 to 1984</p>  <p>In 2013 Miss Kirby was honoured with an M.B.E. for services to education.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Headmistress: Comprehensive Co-educational School • She became a member of the Court of Newcastle University in 1972 and was awarded an Honorary Fellowship of the University in 2005. • Member of the Burnham committee on teacher's salaries from 1974 to 1984 and the government committee on the School Curriculum from 1984 to 1987. • 1984 National President of the Secondary Heads Association and superannuation consultant to the Association until 2000. • She was a member of the British Federation of Women Graduates where she was President from 1997 to 2000. • Northern England Regional President 2011 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • President's theme: 'Knowing Our City' with talks including on the schools' Meals Service, Nuclear Energy pros and cons, The Theatre Royal, Past, present and future of Newcastle,' My job' talks, Parenting in the Western World, Ikabana, the development of St Oswald's Hospice and the work of the NSPCC. • SI Newcastle upon Tyne raised £750 for St Oswald's Hospice (Duchess of Northumberland in attendance) • Friendship links with: Beverley Hills – Century City, Ashville North Carolina, Olympia (USA), Munich (West Germany) and Gothenburg (Sweden) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federation President: Mrs. Margaret Hutchings • Annual Conference 1983: Birmingham • Mrs. J Carter: S.I. Northern England Regional President  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senegal- manning the pumps – International Project 1983 – 1987 • By late 1983, Soroptimist International had 63,982 members in 2,250 countries. • International Convention: Istanbul • Betty Loughhead was International President 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PM Margaret Thatcher • June 18th: Sally Ride becomes the first American woman in space aboard Space Shuttle Challenger on the STS-7 mission. • June 18th: Iranian teenager Mona Mahmudnizhad and nine other women are hanged because of their membership of the Bahá'í Faith. • 14th February – Torvill and Dean win a gold medal for ice skating at the Winter Olympics. • March 6th: Miners' Strike begins


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<p>Miss Dorothy Dowie (died 20th October 2007) 1984 to 1985</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medical Practice Manager • President Dorothy was made an Honorary Member in May 2005 for her outstanding support to S.I. Newcastle upon Tyne and to Soroptimism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • President's theme: 'Getting to know one another' with talks including Retirement, Marks and Spencers' Centenary year, an inter-club meeting, • Club outings: Guide Dog for the Blind Centre, Middlesbrough and a Lake District tour and Drumlanrig Castle • During the year, the Club raised a substantial sum which was given to the Paediatric Cardiology Department at the Freeman Hospital (£2,000). In 1986, Freeman Hospital became the third Transplant Unit in the country.  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jubilee Appeal Fund £362 raised • SI Newcastle upon Tyne hosted the 36th Annual Conference of the SI Northern England Divisional Union in the Civic Centre. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federation President: Miss Muriel Bowers • SIGBI Golden Jubilee Conference in Harrogate • E Hannaford: S.I. Northern England Regional President 	<p>PM Margaret Thatcher</p> <p>April 17th: WPC Yvonne Fletcher shot outside the Libyan Embassy in London</p> <p>26th September – the United Kingdom and the People's Republic of China sign the initial agreement to return Hong Kong to China in 1997</p> <p>12th October – the Provisional Irish Republican Army attempts to assassinate the Conservative cabinet in the Brighton hotel bombing. Margaret Thatcher escapes unharmed, but MP Anthony Berry and four other people are killed, whilst Norman Tebbit is trapped among the rubble and his wife Margaret is seriously injured.</p> <p>October 31st: -assassination of Indira Gandhi, the first (and only female President of India)</p> <p>1985 UN designated International Year of Youth</p> <p>March 3rd: Miners' strike ends.</p>

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<p>Miss Mary Thompson (deceased) 1985 to 1986</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senior Probation Officer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Garden Party at the home of Irene and Edwin Alcock in the summer. • The wonderful concert by the music department of La Sagesse School. • Talks on: Antique boxes, members' job talks, conference reports, fashion show of garments following a mastectomy, flower arranging, Youth Enterprise Centre – Project North East, Lebanon, Operation Water Aid, • Visits: Post Office, Alnwick, Alnmouth and Bamburgh • Donations each to: £250 to Water Aid, Goma Project, Soroptimist Benevolent Fund 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federation President: Dr. Celeste Muir • Conference: Dublin • Mrs. A. Kerrison: S.I. Northern England Regional President • Third Women's International Conference in Nairobi • Death of Past International President, Ethel Lord May 2nd • Sadun Katipoglu of Turkey installed as International President • Soroptimists now in 78 countries 	<p>PM Margaret Thatcher 11th February – Joan Child becomes the first female Speaker of the Australian House of Representatives.</p> <p>July 4th : Ruth Lawrence, 13, achieves a first in mathematics at Oxford University, becoming the youngest British person ever to earn a first-class degree and the youngest known graduate of Oxford University.</p> <p>December 26th : American naturalist Dian Fossey is found murdered in Rwanda.</p> <p>February 25th: Corazon Aquino becomes the first Filipino woman president.</p> <p>UN designated International Year of Peace (IYOP)</p> <p>On January 28, 1986, the NASA Space Shuttle orbiter undertaking mission STS-51-L and the tenth flight of Space Shuttle Challenger broke apart 73 seconds into its flight, killing all seven crew members.</p>


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<p data-bbox="174 357 371 478">Mrs Anne Thom 1986 to 1987 (died March 27th 2020)</p> 	<ul data-bbox="483 357 629 383" style="list-style-type: none"> Solicitor 	<ul data-bbox="831 357 1317 1104" style="list-style-type: none"> Principle preoccupation of the Club during this year was the preparation for our fiftieth year The sterling work done by our retired members to raise funds for the celebrations, which started on 14th April 1987 with a most successful lecture on "50 years of Fashion", attended by the President of Glasgow West, Sheila Connell. Glasgow West became most recent friendship Link Club. The club raised a substantial sum for the Jubilee Charities - St. Oswald's Hospice and Conrad House (another Hospice soon to be reborn in a new building as the Marie Curie Hospice) S.I. Newcastle upon Tyne organised a three-day conference entitled: the 'Women's Training Roadshow' at the then Newcastle Polytechnic with the objective of communicating non-traditional career opportunities for females 	<ul data-bbox="1384 357 1704 791" style="list-style-type: none"> Federation President: Miss Kate Fussell FRCS Women's Road Shows planned in Newcastle and the 'Five-O' group was established with the 'Five-O' committee for Northern England. Miss S Stoddart: S.I. Northern England Regional President Annual Conference: Eastbourne 	<ul data-bbox="1771 357 2092 1040" style="list-style-type: none"> PM Margaret Thatcher The Chernobyl disaster was a nuclear accident that occurred on 26 April 1986 at the No. 4 nuclear reactor in Chernobyl, USSR. Aretha Franklin becomes the first woman inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. September 1986: First Earth Run (a global torch run to celebrate IYOP) started at the UN and was run through many clubs where there were Soroptimist clubs). 1987 UN International Year of Shelter

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<p>Mrs. Mary Stephenson (deceased) 1987 to 1988</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tax Consultant (She gave special attention to helping older people who found it difficult to adjust to a static or falling income in a time of change and monetary inflation.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SI Newcastle upon Tyne's 50th anniversary <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;">   </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Charter dinner held at Newcastle Civic Centre with a candle lighting ceremony where current members each lit a candle for a Past President. Club meetings talks: Druridge Bay, Nuclear Power, Denby Pottery, Aids, Visit to Traquair House Donations to Pendower School, the education of Marta in Guatemala, Oxfam, Water Aid, NSPCC, Senegal, Blakelaw Children. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Federation President: Mrs. Hilary Shaw SIGI Conference: Nottingham Mrs K Manning S.I. Northern England Regional President  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> international Project 1987 – 1991 International Convention :Melbourne 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PM Mrs. Margaret Thatcher becomes the longest-serving UK Prime Minister this century, having been in power for eight years and 244 days on January 3rd. The Order of the Garter is opened to women on August 19th Great Storm of 1987: Hurricane-force winds hit much of southern England, killing 23 people, Oct 15th to 16th. November 18th: the King's Cross fire on the London Underground kills 31 people and injures a further 100. January –1988 Elizabeth Butler-Sloss becomes the first woman to be appointed a Lord Justice of Appeal.

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<p>Mrs. Grace Kinghorn 1988 to 1989</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Newsagent (formerly with the Police Service) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speakers from: Northern Arts; the Northern Sinfonia; Northumbria Water; "Keeping Newcastle Clean"; Barnardo's; Conrad House Cancer Care; Newcastle University (Town Planning); Town Teacher; 'Primary Education in Newcastle'; and with the regional Kidney Transplant Unit. • Fund raising: Coffee Mornings, a Wine and Cheese event, a Strawberry lunch • Money was raised for Marta's Educational Fund; Cancer Care; the Bayswater (63) Appeal; the Lima San Salvador Shanty Town Project and towards a visit by Westgate Hill School children to the Royal Ballet via the Hamlin Project and a donation of £200 was given to Montague Primary School to assist in taking 10 children to see the ballet 'Swan Lake' at the Royal Opera House in Covent Garden. Some of these children had never been on a train before and none of them had ever stayed in a hotel, so it was a whole new experience for them. • The Club had an outing to the Atomic Energy site at Sellafield which proved to be very interesting. We came home with a cap each and a Teddy Bear which came in use when there were 13 people on the top table at our Birthday meeting and he sat in the 14th seat. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federation President: Mrs Anne Brian • The Federation Conference was held in Glasgow • President G.K. and several other members attended and were hosted by our Friendship Link Club of S.I. Glasgow West. • Helen Adamson of S.I. Glasgow West was Federation President • International Convention in San Francisco: Landmines Campaign begun. • Margaret Alderson: S.I. Northern England Regional President 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PM Mrs. Margaret Thatcher • January 3rd : Margaret Thatcher becomes the longest serving UK PM (8 years and 244 days) • C of E announced the ordination of women priests from 1992 • December 3rd 1988: Health Minister, Edwina Currie, resigns over 'salmonella comments' • Barbara Harris becomes first female Anglican bishop in USA.